

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 069205
ORIGIN PM-05

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R 170702Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
HQ USAF WASH DC/XOXXI/XOXXW
HQ MAC SCOTT AFB IL/XOXA/DOCSA
HQ 21 AF MCGURIE AFB NJ/DOX
437 MAW CHARLESTON AFB CS/DOXS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 069205

E.O. 11652: ADS-DECLASSIFY UPON COMPLETION OF NEGOTIATIONS

TAGS: MARR, BF, JM, TD

SUBJECT: MAC DISASTER RELIEF AIRFIELD SUITABILITY SURVEYS

REFS: (A) STATE 294058 (DTG 090223Z DEC 77)
(B) PORT OF SPAIN 3761 (DTG 131900Z DEC 77)

1. FOR AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN. IN RESPONSE TO REF B, THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PROVIDED. SOME INFORMATION REQUIRED IS AVAILABLE THROUGH OTHER SOURCES, HOWEVER, THE CRITICAL DATA TO BE OBTAINED BY THE SURVEY TEAM IS NOT. THIS DATA INCLUDES SUCH SPECIFIC DETAILS AS TAXIWAY SIGN HEIGHTS AND OTHER TAXIWAY OBSTRUCTIONS.

2. THE C-141 AND C-5 AIRCRAFT HAVE UNIQUE TAXI AND PARKING
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 069205

OBSTRUCTION CLEARANCE REQUIREMENTS AND GROUND HANDLING
FEATURES WHICH ARE NOT COMMON TO CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT.

A. BECAUSE OF THE LOW SWEPT WING ON THE C-141 IT HAS A WING-TIP GROWTH CHARACTERISTIC IN TURNS WHICH CREATES A REDUCED CLEARANCE BOTH IN TAXIING AND PARKING. THE CLEARANCE FROM THE GROUND ON THE WING-TIP OF THE C-141 IS

LESS THAN NINE FEET WITH LESS THAN FOUR FEET CLEARANCE
FROM THE OUTBOARD ENGINE NACELLES.

B. BECAUSE OF THE USE OF THE 463L CARGO HANDLING SYSTEM
AND RAMP CAR;O LOADING SYSTEMS OF BOTH THE C-141 AND C-5,
MOST CIVILIAN LOADING EQUIPMENT IS NOT COMPATIBLE WITH
EITHER AIRCRAFT. PARKING AREAS WHICH MAY BE ADEQUATE FOR
CIVILIAN CARRIERS ARE IN MANY INSTANCES NOT SUITABLE.

C. THE C-5, BECAUSE OF ITS LOW SWEPT WING, HAS A JET
BLAST PATTERN NOT COMMON TO EITHER DC-10'S OR 747'S, A
CONDITION WHICH REQUIRES SPECIAL CONSIDERATION TO AVOID
DAMAGE TO GROUND HANDLING EQUIPMENT, VEHICLES AND OTHER
AIRCRAFT.

3. MAC SAFETY STANDARDS AND OBSTRUCTION CLEARANCE
REQUIREMENTS ARE MORE STRINGENT THAN THOSE OF CIVILIAN
CARRIERS. AIRFIELDS WHICH DC-10'S, 747'S, DC-8'S AND
707'S REGULARLY OPERATE INTO HAVE BEEN FOUND NOT TO BE
ADEQUATE FOR MAC OPERATIONS OR HAVE REQUIRED WAIVERS BASED
ON SCENE EVALUATIONS BY QUALIFIED MAC PERSONNEL.

4. FOR KINGSTON AND NASSAU. REQUEST TO KNOW WHEN WE
MAY EXPECT TO KNOW OF PROJECT APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL BY
HOST GOVERNMENTS.

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PAGE 03 STATE 069205

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